[54] PALETTE MANAGER IN A GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE COMPUTER SYSTEM

[75] Inventors: Christopher Andrew, Boca Raton; Marc A. Bloomfield, Lighthouse Point, both of Fla.

[73] Assignee: International Business Machines Corporation, Armonk, N.Y.

[21] Appl. No.: 855,369

[22] Filed: Mar. 20, 1992

[51] Int. Cl.^{5} G06F 5/06
[52] U.S. Cl. 395/155; 395/157; 395/161
[58] Field of Search 395/155, 157, 158, 159, 395/161

[56] References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

5,179,657 1/1993 Dykstal et al. .... 395/155 X
5,249,263 9/1993 Yanker .... 395/155 X

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Microsoft Windows User's Guide (Trademark of Microsoft Corporation), 1990, pp. 120, 145-153, 156-157.

Primary Examiner—Heather R. Herndon
Assistant Examiner—Cliff N. Vo
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Robert S. Babayi

[57] ABSTRACT

A method for adjusting elements of a graphical user interface operating system is disclosed. The method includes providing the operating system with a plurality of palette managers; each palette manager includes a plurality of element values. The palette managers are represented on a display device by icons, are accessible via windows and are responsive to a pointer. One of the palette managers is activated via the pointer to provide an activated palette manager window. One of the values of the activated palette manager window is selected via the pointer. The selected value is dragged to an element to be updated and dropped on that element. Dropping the selected value causes the element to be updated to correspond to the selected value.

8 Claims, 17 Drawing Sheets